GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:91
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Bird Flu
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has taken cognizance of bird flu outbreak in Kerala and other States recently;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with reported loss of bird/poultry population;
(c) whether the Government has any plan to give compensation to the affected poultry farmers and if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of financial assistance to be provided to each State/UT;
(d) whether the Government has constituted a committee for monitoring the outbreak of bird flu across the country and issued guidelines to State Governments for control and containment of bird flu and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the virus strains of bird flu are found to be infectious with adverse impact on humans and if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government to control the spread of bird flu in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
???? ?? ???? ?????? ?????? (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 91 for 22nd November, 2016 regarding 'Bird Flu'

(a) and (b): The outbreaks of Avian Influenza was reported in National Zoological Park, New Delhi on 17-10-2016 which was followed by outbreak in Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh) on 21-10-2016. Outbreaks of Avian Influenza H5N8 virus have been reported from various epicenters of Alappuzha and Kottayam districts of Kerala from 24-10-2016. An outbreak in village Damenheri, tehsil Rajpura in Patiala district of Punjab was reported on 25-10-2016. On 03-11-2016, the outbreak was reported at Hissar, Haryana. An outbreak of H5N8 AI virus was also reported at Itagi village, Hospet Taluk of Bellary district in Karnataka on 10-11-2016.

The State Governments have carried out control and containment operations as per Action Plan on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza. Sanitization Certificates have been issued by the States after completion of control and containment operations. The Post Operation Surveillance is undergoing in Punjab, Haryana and Karnataka. The control and containment operation is going on in Kerala. Culling operation at epicenters is over, except at Punnapra in Alappuzha district. Surveillance is continuing throughout the country. The details of mortality, the number of birds culled, number of eggs and quantity of poultry feed destroyed is given in Annexure.

(c) As per Action Plan, there is a provision to give compensation to the poultry farmers for the forced culling of the birds and destruction of eggs and poultry feed at the fixed rates. The amount of compensation is shared between the Central and State Government on 50:50 sharing basis. The compensation is paid only in the event of confirmation of Avian Influenza and the culling of the poultry in 1 km radius of the epicentre. The concerned states are required to submit the details of the funds required.

(d) The Central Govt. was constituted a committee for constant monitoring of the situation under co-ordination of Joint Commissioner, DADF comprising representatives from M/o Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), DARE to closely monitor and render support to the State Govt. on the situation. The necessary guidelines have been issued to all the states on control and containment of the disease.

(e) The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has informed that as per the current knowledge, the public health risk to human population is considered low for Avian Influenza sub-type H5N8. However as a matter of abundant caution Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued an advisory to the States/UTs to minimize bird-human interface, use of personal protective equipment by those handling dead/sick birds, keep persons exposed to the dead/sick birds under surveillance and providing them chemoprophylaxis (Oseltamivir 75 mg) once daily for 10 days.